

MARCH 1949 VOL. 8 NO. 3

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

RAMONA STATION

**NEWS
LETTER**

**STATE DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.**



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

To facilitate a better understanding of responsibilities, to discuss ways and means to improve the Division's service to the people of California, and to consider special administrative problems, a three-day Division of Forestry conference was held this month at Asilomar in Monterey County. More than one hundred fifty administrative and technical employees of the Division were in attendance. Recommendations developed during the course of the conference will subsequently be given close scrutiny at all administrative levels of the Division in an attempt to further improve administrative and management methods inherent in every business as diverse as that of the Division of Forestry.

A one-day meeting of the State Board of Forestry was held in Sacramento on March 31. The State Forester reported on the Division's 1949-50 budget presently being considered by the Legislature. Board members were also acquainted with the progress in the forest legislation to date.

An analysis of all the 1948 timber registrations was completed this month, the statistics having shown that 810 operators registered with the production of saw timber, fence posts, split products, fuelwood, poles and piling, and pulpwood from these operations estimated at 3.19 billion board feet. Because of the severe nature of the winter season there has been much speculation recently on how the abnormally cold weather affected forest insect conditions throughout the timber zone of California. Preliminary examinations to date indicate that mortality of wintering broods of Ips species was not much greater than that of a normal winter kill. Past experience, however, has demonstrated that temperatures unusually severe have had a greater effect on the destruction of Western pine beetle. Authorities conclude that destruction of merchantable timber in the northeastern part of California from the Western pine beetle will be lessened this year. This reduction will probably be offset to some extent by the weakened condition of forest stands caused by snow breakage and freeze damage to young trees.

Work was in progress in Southern California this month on the Julian insect infestation zone of San Diego County. It is estimated that work should be completed in this area by the end of April.

The State Board of Forestry, at its meeting in March, approved an experimental venture on this project involving the use of chemicals to kill the insects. The chemicals are to be applied to smaller standing trees by using power spray equipment. The Forest Insect Laboratory is cooperating with the Division in this work designed to test the suitability under chemical treatment to certain California conditions in hopes of finally effecting lower insect control costs.

Negotiations were completed during the month for this summer's use of the Mendocino Recreational Area in Mendocino County by various non-profit groups. Until these groups have had sufficient time to form a parent organization that can take over the management and maintenance burdens of the area under direct lease from the State, the area will be maintained by Division personnel. Fees will necessarily have to be charged to compensate the Division for the time and money spent in the administration and management of facilities.

Studies of operational features of the Division's radio network continued this month directed towards improving communication facilities for the summer fire season. Among others, the Division of Communications and this

Division instigated a study to determine the most adaptable antenna types for use at radio repeater locations. Specifications for radios to be purchased with funds of the 100th Fiscal Year Budget were completed during the month.

Instructors training schools were continued this month in practically all districts. This program is directed to the Associate Ranger, Assistant Ranger, and Foreman levels in the field and is the result of the initial training school held in Fresno in cooperation with the Department of Education earlier in the year. These men in the field are responsible each year for training some 1500 seasonal employees in the fire crew class. Learning techniques and procedures and the finer points of instruction and concentrating on them when training the seasonal employees should be of material aid in increasing the effectiveness of fire crews.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Deane Bennett, former Assistant Ranger Riverside County, to Assistant Forestry Technician District III, replaces Ronald Adams as Farm Forester District III, Adams now working with Ray Doney on forest nursery work.

Melvin Miller resigned his Associate Ranger position, Eldorado County and transferred as Assistant Ranger to Riverside County replacing Deane Bennett.

Kenneth Dosier Jr. is newly appointed Senior Radio Telephone Technician assigned to District V.

Leland Smith, Forest Technician, is on temporary assignment at Sacramento Headquarters on special study work in land survey.

Eric Jacobson, Assistant Forestry Technician, transferred from Farm Forestry work in District I to Assistant Technician, Jackson State Forest, Mendocino County.

George Rowe, Forest Technician has replaced Tobe Arvola as Technician in charge of the Jackson State Forest.

Edwin Sechrist, Forest Technician, has been appointed Assistant to the Forest Manager in the Sacramento Office.

James Chamberlain has been appointed as Assistant Civil Engineer replacing Tom Stetson in the Engineering Section of the Sacramento Office.

Bill Murray, Assistant Ranger, Yuba County, left the Division to take up ranch work in Tulare County.

ABOUT THE DIVISION

TELEPHONE LINE RELOCATION PROGRAM IN TUOLUMNE COUNTY

The hoot and holler system in Tuolumne County will be a thing of the past as the relocating of six miles of new telephone line and the metalizing of twelve miles of the old line from Sonora to Rushing Mountain lookout is moving along rapidly. To date the surveying of the line and the brushing of

the right of way has been completed. Up to the present time all of the work has been done by Tuolumne County personnel. However, starting the first week in April, we will have a ten man C.Y.A. crew working on the project. The facilities for quartering the C.Y.A. crew will be provided at the Blanchard Suppression Station. We hope to have the line completed for the coming fire season.

Foreman Cliff Neal has resigned due to the illness of his wife. The vacancy has been filled by Ralph Jenkins, who was employed here during the last fire season.

Don M. Roleder
Assistant Ranger

MURRAY LEAVES DIVISION

March 4th brought to a close Assistant Ranger Bill Murray's long association with the Division of Forestry and personnel of Yuba County decided to say farewell to Bill and his family with a flourish. A festive party highlighted by a fine Italian style dinner, music (?) on the guitars (courtesy of Stanley and Fippin, Inc.) and songs (courtesy of all) helped Bill, Rose, and the little Murrays to thoroughly enjoy their last evening in Yuba County.

After dinner Bill was presented with a handsome hand-worked leather wallet and Rose with a Revere Ware chicken broiler — we expect the Murray's ranch near Visalia (Yettum, to be exact) to produce a sufficient number of chickens to keep the pot well filled at all times.

We know that the Murray's many friends will want to join with us in wishing Bill and his family all of the success in the world in his new role as rancher.

YUBA OFFICE AND RANGER QUARTERS NEAR COMPLETION

The new Yuba County Headquarters on the east side of Marysville is rapidly taking shape. The carpenters, ably assisted by Yuba County personnel, have erected the office in near-record time, and the Ranger's residence has followed suit. The office should be ready for occupancy as soon as the painter has completed his tasks and the residence shortly thereafter. Needless to say we are all very happy over the progress that has been made and wish to thank all who have had a hand in expediting construction.

H. P. Reinecker
Assistant Ranger

JOE ISN'T IN CALAVERAS

The byword for District III recently seemed to be "Anybody here seen Joe?" Operation Manhunt, led by Herman "Bloodhound" Meyers throughout the District, uncovered no suspect in Calaveras County. We hope there's no truth to the rumor that FORTNIGHT magazine, which recently featured a dramatic article on Roland Vandegrift, State Legislative Auditor, is also now vigorously searching for Joe to obtain his life story.

April 4th found three changes in personnel occurring here. Checking in from Placer County was Charles "Chuck" Wagener, Assistant Ranger, and from

El Dorado County was Bill Jones, Dispatcher. Logging himself out to Sutter Hill in Amador County was Vernon Cassell, Dispatcher.

Wagener will take over the Forest Practice assignment here. Jones moves into position behind the new console desk vacated by Dispatcher Cassell. The latter wishes to point out that Amador's spanking new office building is really something to see, even without him there.

We sincerely hope there is nothing prophetic about the fire we rolled to on March 29th - our first grass fire of the season, fanned by a stiff breeze, burned an entire acre of last year's dry grass and threatened a dwelling. Altho we rolled two trucks to chaperone it, the fire went out by itself.

Up to the time we went to press Ranger Fenlon and Associate Ranger Bradford were still shaking Asilomar sand out of their boots.

Vernon Cassell
Forest Fire Dispatcher

NEWS FROM AMADOR COUNTY

Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Rolfe, CDF Foreman, Amador County. In the first week of March the Rolfe's were presented with a 7 lb. future firefighter. Congrats Bob, on your income tax exemption.

A great deal of activity is going on around Dew Drop Suppression Camp. Early in March word came to Amador County that Dew Drop had been selected as the location to hold the week's training school for the Forest Technicians. Everyone immediately began the major job of getting the camp ready. Efforts were hampered severely by the heavy snowfall. At the time of this writing there is 3 to 4 feet of snow on the level and drifts of 8 to 10 feet around the buildings. It was recommended by Johnny Johnson, Foreman in charge of Dew Drop, that the initial course to be taught should be on "Use and Care of the Snow Shoe". It was further recommended that each man equipped with a diameter tape should be issued a snow shovel. It may be novel to some of the "students" to dig down in order to get D.B.H. Cheer up, boys, maybe it will rain. Then all you'll have to **worry** about is waist deep mud. Will snow shoes work in mud?

The C.D.F. personnel of Amador County wish to extend this word of welcome to Deane Bennett, Farm Forester, recently assigned to Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne, as Farm Forester. Deane Bennett was formerly from Riverside County, District VI.

We also wish to extend to Ronald S. Adams, predecessor of Mr. Bennett, our sincere wishes on his new position. Ronny was recently transferred to the Forest Nursery at Davis. Good luck Ronny.

FLASH! New office at Sutter Hill completed and occupied fulfilling a long felt need. Now, if we only had a couple of residences and a warehouse the station would be fairly complete. Persons who had any connection with the construction of the office are to be congratulated for their foresight, and thoughtfulness on the floor plan.

Wm. C. Finster
Assistant Ranger

LOST PIPE DELAYS CONSTRUCTION JOB

Ranger Bruce Hufford, the sage of District IV, has gained quite a reputation for a smooth running operation and has developed unique ways of solving personnel problems as they arise. However, recently his ingenuity was taxed to the limit when he received a hurry-up call from Assistant Ranger John Rosar to visit the Hornitos Fire Control Station Construction job.

Rosar reported that he was suspicious of the intentions of Foreman Lew Jones, stating that after the concrete blocks had been laid and mortared in Jones was quite insistent that they be removed on the excuse that in his opinion they were not laid true. Upon Rosar's refusal to comply, the project was practically at a standstill. Our Ranger Hufford, upon applying all the tricks and practices of a true man of the mountains, in noting Jones' glum appearance finally discovered that Jones had lost his pet pipe in the concrete mortar. So, after the promise of immediate replacement of the pipe and the gift of two fresh cigars (Rosar's) a harmonious crew again was in operation.

Bill Webb, Carpenter Foreman

INSTRUCTOR'S TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS SAN LUIS OBISPO ACTIVITIES

Highlight of interest in San Luis Obispo County this month was the training program conducted for the purpose of teaching field personnel in District V, the approved method of instructing others in the various tasks which may be assigned to them.

This school was attended by Associate Rangers, Assistant Rangers, Dispatchers, Foremen and a few Truck Drivers from Monterey, San Luis Obispo and a part of San Benito County.

S. Nash-Boulden
Associate Ranger

NEWS FROM DISTRICT VI

District VI personnel are anxiously eyeing the green grass growing tall for it won't be long now until the bloom on its cheeks fades to brown and a new fire season will be upon us. Even the deserts are now putting on their once-every-decade spectacle of a sea of flowers crowned by 10,000 feet high white-capped mountains, but next June and July, it will be hard to remember such beauty as we stagger forward to halt the red surge of flames.

Oh yes, we'll need some good men around here and we are thinking of one recently arrived to fill the vacancy created by Deane Bennett's transfer to District III as an Assistant Forest Technician. We welcome Melvon Miller, formerly of District III to the Assistant Ranger position in Riverside County and our best wishes follow Deane Bennett up north and we wish both men luck in their new jobs.

It has been reported that Assistant Ranger Vernon Stahl has been under the weather. All Vernon's friends here in District VI hope he is on his feet and well again. One of our busiest dispatchers in the State (nearly 60 vehicles to handle on 600 plus fires yearly) is soon taking on another little chore; namely, the changing of Beverly J. Brown's to that of Mrs. Sam. A. Heidanus. Sam has seen a number of years service at the Perris Headquarters of Riverside County.

Douglas Glenn, Dispatcher

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The "Instructor Training Course" was conducted in San Diego County

for the periods February 7 to March 3 at Camp Elliott. Many Division employees throughout the State will remember Camp Elliott relative to the State-wide structural training program at this location from March 26 to April 4, 1947. The Instructor course was scheduled to four sessions, each of four days duration with a total of 59 employees participating. San Diego County included all Assistant Rangers, Foremen, and a large majority of Drivers, as well as Project Supervisors, Foremen and Drivers from Rainbow and Minnewawa C A A Camps. With such a large cast of "instructors" the "follow-up" and "back-up" should be TER-RIFIC. Considering an extensive follow up in this regard, we feel that only the preliminary bout has been completed.

Combined efforts of all employees are concentrated on completion of construction projects under the Post-war and Minor Construction programs, before April 15 find the fires ROLLING again. At present we are struggling with two equipment shelters, two gas houses and one wash house, in addition to erection of a Butler Building and a new lookout tower. In the crystal ball, we see two fire control stations under construction at Potrero and Warner Hot Springs, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF FIRE SEASON.

W. G. "Curley" Francis
Associate Ranger

ORANGE COUNTY

The Instructor Training Course has been given to Assistant Rangers and Foremen of Orange County by Assistant Ranger Ulrey of San Bernardino County, who previously attended a special training course in Fresno. Persons who took the course speak highly of it and feel that they will be in a much better position to properly train the new summer fire control employees.

Nine fire prevention programs have been presented since the first of the year to a total audience of some 580 persons, and plans are being made for a concentrated public relations campaign during Conservation Week. At this time programs will be presented at schools, clubs, and at a Jamboree of approximately 2,000 Boy Scouts, their families and friends. Newspaper and radio publicity is being prepared for release during Conservation Week.

All personnel is busily engaged in project and maintenance work — property inventory, minor construction of buildings, fire roads, and maintenance of telephone lines, etc.

Foreman Louis Baldwin of the Yorba Linda Station took his vacation and spent most of it snowbound in Idaho — Driver Ordean Monson is sporting a new gray Chevrolet Sedan — Associate Ranger Osterman is extending invitations to his friends to come see his new television set, bring your own refreshments — It's a girl for (Foreman) Bob and Esther Keepers of Trabuco Station.

Ida M. Rolls
Intermediate Stenographer-Clerk

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

A group of twenty (20) men have completed the Instructor Training Course, held in two sessions at the Headquarters stations of Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

At this writing, it may be said that all personnel have entered into the course with excellent cooperation and applied themselves to the assignments and demonstration lessons. They have finished the course with the opinion that it is one of the best training efforts made by the Division of Forestry and definitely a step forward.

Thanks to the U. S. Navy, through the Naval Reserve Armory in San Bernardino, an ample supply of training aids have been available for this course. Sound film, film strips, and strip projectors, were also made available by the Navy.

The 46 foot extension to our present garage is nearing completion and Mechanic Shay is sitting on pins and needles waiting to move in.

Charles Ulrey
Assistant Ranger

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The snow has receded a wee bit here in the Julian-Cuyamaca Insect Zone allowing us "Buggers" to take a peek at the winter activities of the Ips and D.B. The continual cold, below freezing over long periods of time, has caused the mortality of at least fifty percent of the Ips. The Ips' galleries are in a continual damp condition, with icicles hanging from the walls, sooooo - they should be in a state of long suspended animation. The D. B. infected trees are in far flung places still inaccessible. During the prevention survey at least 60 trees harboring D. B. were found. As soon as weather permits, we can ascertain the extent of damages. It is the *Dentroctonus Brevicomis* that Mr. Paul Keen, Entomologist in charge, is most interested in controlling.

The beetle eradication crew consists of two men at present, doing work on Ips and cleaning up all the snow-downed green pines, thus removing a slash deposit and a future breeding place for the next generation of Ips.

The actual preparation against the depredation of Forest Insects has been in full swing a week, with a full crew of four truck drivers and two assistant Rangers. The crew is composed of C. R. MacGregor, F. D. Lewis, E. L. Balmforth, and G. E. Snyder.

Felling the D. B. trees has gone along at full speed. Two power saws are in alternate operation. The burning conditions are becoming severe in the pine timber so it must wait for climatic conditions to prevail.

The Pine Hills residential area was the first beach-head attempted, thirty-one D. B. trees being felled there.

That's about all from this correspondent at the Insect Zone 'til Forest Entomologist Engen and Patterson, Spray Authority, come down from the Bureau of Entomology to assist us next week.

Guy A. Konnersman
Assistant Ranger

CONSERVATION WEEK REFLECTION:

Too many people confuse conservation and conversation. All they do about wisely using our natural resources is to talk about it.

Brentwood News

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance, self control, diligence, strength of will, content and a hundred other virtues which the idle never know.

Charles Kingsley
Administrative Digest, March, 1949

FLUORESCENT LAMP TUBES CARRY AN EXTREME POISON HAZARD

Fluorescent Lamps are coated on the inside with a fluorescent powder called a phosphor. The composition varies, but the phosphor usually contains beryllium in amounts ranging from a fraction of a percent to approximately 4 percent. The lamps also contain small amounts of mercury.

Serious injury is possible by glass from a broken tube of a fluorescent lamp, if there is a cut from the glass, or if the powdered material (phosphor) from the surface of the glass enters a wound or cut. If a person is cut by a piece of glass from a fluorescent lamp, or if the material on the glass enters a wound or cut, chronic inflammation may result and months may be required for the wound to heal. There have been a number of instances in which the surgeon's knife had to be used, in such cases, perhaps several times, to remove dead or degenerated tissues and tumor masses from the region where the cut occurred. Indeed in some cases, removal of large areas of skin, muscle, or bone may be required.

This extreme toxicity is in the powder which is used to line the interior of the lamp, commonly containing a small percentage of a compound of the metal beryllium, which has recently been found to be very poisonous.

Disposal of tubes which have burned out must be extremely cautious so as to avoid a health hazard. Developments in the near future may eliminate the major portion of the health hazard. In the meantime, it is recommended that all used lamps be broken before disposal. In breaking lamps, the following hazards, in the order of their importance, must be recognized:

1. The dust of beryllium compounds with which the tubes are coated may be inhaled.
2. Cuts or scratches from the broken tubes may retain some of the beryllium compounds.
3. Mercury vapor (tubes contain some free mercury) may be inhaled.

Special precautions. a) Never discard lamps by placing them with rubbish or refuse where they can be carelessly handled or broken.

- b) Never destroy them in incinerators.

c) Do not permit them to be placed where children may have access to them or can play with them. Dust and fumes from the materials of the lamp must be prevented by all possible means from getting into the human system either through a wound or through the nose or mouth; it would be almost impossible to prevent such entry in the case of a child playing with a lamp tube or with broken pieces of one.

d) The folks at home as well as your fellow workers should be warned of the dangers of broken fluorescent lamp tubes. Tell them particularly about the extreme precautions that would be necessary if a lamp does fall on the floor and breaks, and explain that by no means should anyone attempt to pick up bits of glass or other material from the lamps with the fingers. The first thing to do if a lamp falls and breaks is to get out of the room and stay out until any dust produced shall have settled.

The broken glass should be swept up with a brush and pan. If possible, wet it down before sweeping it up. Then wash up the floor with a rag and throw the rag away. (The Navy requires that gloves and full protection goggles be worn when disposing of tubes.)

e) Altho the tubes are under vacuum and implode when broken, once in a while one will explode. One large company's bulletin mentions that the glass is very fine and penetrating and often flies with considerable force. This advice is also given that "anyone who should happen to break a fluorescent bulb should receive medical attention immediately to make sure that he has received no cuts with this beryllium-contaminated glass." Since many physicians may not know of the danger as yet, it will be helpful to your physician, should an accident occur with a fluorescent lamp tube, if you will ask him to read the material in this BULLETIN.

Division of Highways
Safety Section - Sacramento

WANTED: INFORMATION ON THE BEAR CANYON DIGGER PINES

"Does anyone have any information on the two lone digger pines that are growing in Bear Canyon on the Angeles National Forest?"

This is the plea being issued by Glenn Flittner and Roy Bertin, botany students at John Muir College, Pasadena. While engaged in a reconnaissance hike in the canyon in preparation for a botanizing project, these two men were startled by the appearance of two fairly large digger pines. A search of the area for old cabins, trails, etc., proved negative and pointed out the possible significance of the find. Cones and branches were brought back to the school laboratory for positive identification.

The following week end Bertin and Flittner returned to the area and made some measurements of the trees. The following data resulted:

Tree No. 1 22" D.B.H.
67' height
Age estimated by branch whorl count: 45 years
Growth rate for last 10 years: bore shows
2 3/8" /10 years.

Tree No. 2. 19" D.B.H.
64' height
Age estimate by branch whorl count: 47 years
Growth rate for last 10 years: bore shows
2 5/8"/10 years

A count of 18 seedlings was made within 50 feet of the trees.
These seedlings varied from 1" to 8' in height.

An abundant crop of cones was present. The trees are in good condition.

The site is a rich, damp flat supporting bracken fern and blackberries.

The location of this site is about 1 mile down canyon from the Markam Saddle on the Upper Brown Mountain Truck Trail. Just below the digger pines are some large Incense Cedar; one of these measures 17' 5" in circumference at B.H.

Local questioning yielded no information on the history of these pines. It is hoped that someone who reads this article may be able to tell us something about them. Write to R. J. Ball

John Muir College
Pasadena, California

The California Division of Forestry
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